

Message Text

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13

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 OMB-01 DRC-01 AID-20 /151 W

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R 050614Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 899

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 7408

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT KS

SUBJECT: SITUATION AT SEOUL NATIONAL UNIVERSITY SNU

1. STUDENT ANTI-GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES AT SNU ARE CONTINUING. ON NOVEMBER 3 SENIOR SNU ACADEMIC OFFICER GAVE POL COUNSELOR FOLLOWING DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT SITUATION AT UNIVERSITY.

2. SNU ACADEMIC OFFICER INDICATED THAT BOYCOTT OF CLASSES AT LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGE IS CONTINUING AND IS GENERALLY EFFECTIVE. SIGNIFICANT BOYCOTT OF CLASSES IS ALSO CONTINUING AT COMMERCE COLLEGE AND LAW SCHOOL. MAJOR ANTI-GOVERNMENT ACTIVITY, HOWEVER, CONTINUES TO FOCUS ON THE LIBERAL ARTS SCHOOL CAMPUS. THERE IS NOW CAMPAIGN GOING ON AMONG LIBERAL ARTS STUDENTS THREATENING MASS WITHDRAWAL FROM THE COLLEGE UNLESS ALL STUDENTS ARRESTED ARE RELEASED AND "DEMOCRACY" IS RESTORED. HE SAID ALREADY SOME 800 OUT OF THE APPROXIMATELY 2000 LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGE STUDENTS HAVE SIGNED CIRCULARS TO THAT EFFECT. (NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SPEAKER CHONG LATER TOLD AMBASSADOR ABOUT 2,000 SNU STUDENTS HAD SIGNED DECLARATION RE WITHDRAWAL.) ALSO INDICATED THAT THE MODERATION OF
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GOVERNMENT STANCE TOWARD STUDENTS AND RELEASE OF

MOST OF THOSE ARRESTED LAST WEEK HAS NOT HAD SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON STUDENT ATTITUDES AT SNU, WHICH REMAIN CLEARLY HOSTILE TO GOVERNMENT.

3. SNU OFFICIAL ALSO SAID MINISTER OF EDUCATION, PARTICULARLY, IS IN CONTINUING CONTACT WITH SNU PRESIDENT AND LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGE DEAN, PRESSING THEM TO GET STUDENT SITUATION UNDER CONTROL AND TO ENLIST FACULTY SUPPORT IN DOING SO. MINISTER OF EDUCATION HAS ALSO EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN THAT SNU PROFESSORS MIGHT IN SOME FASHION BE ENCOURAGING CONTINUATION OF STUDENT ANTI-GOVERNMENT PROTESTS. IN FACT, HE SAID, HE DOES NOT KNOW OF ANY PROFESSORS ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN INCITING STUDENTS. HOWEVER, IT IS TRUE THAT "BENEATH THE SURFACE" MOST OF THE FACULTY DISLIKE GOVERNMENT AND ADMIRE STUDENT ACTIONS.

4. COMMENT: SNU SITUATION IS CLEARLY OF CONCERN TO GOVERNMENT, AND THERE IS WIDE-SPREAD SYMPATHY FOR SNU STUDENTS AT OTHER UNIVERSITIES AND AMONG CHRISTIAN GROUPS.

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30 JUN 2005

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